

reached, but will reform them so that they are themselves secure and financially sound for the future, and so that what we do reflects the real world and not an artificial set of statistics.

So I came to the floor this evening, Mr. President, to thank the Senator from New Mexico for his thoughtfulness and his tremendous amount of work for the two resolutions that he has submitted, and to simply try to emphasize that with him I hope not that either of these proposals passes and becomes a guideline for the U.S. Senate and for the Congress, but that they help us reach a goal that is not a Republican goal, not a Democratic goal, but a goal for all Americans.

Mr. DOMENICI. Would the Senator yield?

Mr. GORTON. The Senator would.

Mr. DOMENICI. First, let me note the presence of Senator CONRAD on the floor.

Might I just say, I do not think you heard any of my remarks since I returned from a couple of hours at the White House yesterday. And I have not had a chance to speak with the distinguished Senator. But we are busy, as of today, working on trying to reach our differences. There will be a lot of work the next 2 weeks. We are very hopeful 1 week after we return, with that week being spent by some of us getting down to the final stages of negotiations, that we will have something very constructive.

It is hard to say where it will all end up, but I can say the President approached it with a degree of not only earnestness, but a sense that we ought to go ahead and move and we ought to resolve some differences and get going. And I have expressed that here today, indicating that as these two budgets are only there in the event we cannot get a budget out of the Budget Committee, then we have to get something to work off of, and this is a rather normal way to do it: Put a budget resolution in. Then the leader can call it up if we were to fail, and we have something to work on.

I simply think everybody knows there are a lot of possibilities of working a budget together this year because there are many Republicans and Democrats who are looking seriously at ways to put something together that does do some difficult things, that is not just a skirting over the difficulties, and is saying, let us do some things that have real long-term impact and as you, I say to the Senator, have so eloquently said, something we can all be proud of that really does the job.

That is my goal. I will try as best I can in the next few weeks. And, again, subject to the frailties of partisanship and things that can happen that you know nothing about, I said I thought there was a probability we could reach an agreement with the President, bipartisan, that many Senators would like.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—RELATIVE TO BELARUS

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas the seedlings of an independent and democratic Belarus, for which generations of Belarusian patriots have fought and died, are in danger of being swept away as a result of the policies of Belarusian President Alaksandr Lukashenka and the efforts of Russian nationalist leaders to recreate the Soviet empire;

Whereas March 25th is the date that Belarusians throughout the world salute the sacrifices and bravery of the members of the Council of the Belarusian Democratic Republic, who in 1918 liberated their country from czarist rule;

Whereas the Russian Duma in March 1996 voted to declare void the 1991 agreement dissolving the Soviet Union;

Whereas the referendum adopted in November of 1996 expanded President Lukashenka's already considerable powers in violation of the Constitution of Belarus and basic democratic principles;

Whereas on January 16, 1996, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe urged the Government of Belarus "to enter into dialogue with the opposition and to ensure freedom of media and not restrict access to the media for members of the opposition";

Whereas on March 14, 1997, the United States Department of State issued a statement that calls on President Lukashenka's Government to exercise restraint and to observe the international human rights agreements to which it is a party; and

Whereas the Government of President Lukashenka has monopolized the mass media, undermined the constitutional foundation for the separation of powers, suppressed the freedom of the press, undermined efforts to restore the Belarusian language, and undercut the ground for all-Belarusian unity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should urge President Lukashenka and the Government of Belarus to—

- (1) abide by the provisions of—
 - (A) the Helsinki Final Act; and
 - (B) other agreements of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe;
- (2) guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the press, assembly, and expression; and
- (3) guarantee separation of powers.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENCE.

It is the policy of the United States to support the people of Belarus in—

- (1) maintaining independent statehood;
- (2) promoting the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms; and
- (3) assuring that Belarus has the opportunity to survive as an equal and full-fledged member-state among the sovereign nations of the world.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I am submitting a concurrent resolution regarding Belarus. I am pleased that Senator D'AMATO is an original cosponsor of this concurrent resolution. Representative PALLONE has submitted a similar measure in the House of Representatives.

I am deeply concerned about events in Belarus and the effort by President

Lukashenka to expand his already considerable powers at the expense of basic democratic principles. I am deeply concerned by his proposal to unify Russia and Belarus. And, as the cochairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am dismayed by President Lukashenka's failure to abide by the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE agreements which guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The resolution recognizes March 25, 1997, as the anniversary of the proclamation of Belarusian independence. It calls on President Lukashenka and the Government to abide by the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other agreements of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe; to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the press, assembly, and expression; and to guarantee separation of powers. The resolution states that it is the policy of the United States to support the people of Belarus in achieving independent statehood, promoting the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, and assuring that Belarus has the opportunity to survive as an equal and full-fledged member-state among sovereign nations of the world.

As we approach the anniversary of Belarus' 1918 declaration of independence, we are reminded that Belarus is a nation with a proud history and traditions. It is appropriate that we remember the brave struggle of Belarusian patriots in 1918. At the same time, we must recognize that the struggle for national sovereignty and democratic freedoms continues today and is greatly threatened by the actions of the Lukashenka regime.

I urge my colleagues to approve this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 66—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAMHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 66

Whereas the University of Florida can trace its beginnings to 1853 but was formally established by the State of Florida when Florida Agricultural College merged with East Florida Seminary, South Florida Military College, and St. Petersburg Normal & Industrial School in 1905;

Whereas the University of Florida adopted the colors of orange and blue for its athletic team in 1905 and the alligator as the school's mascot in 1908;

Whereas the origins of intercollegiate football at the University of Florida can be traced back to 1901, when Dr. T.H. Taliaferro, president of the Florida State Agricultural College, enthusiastically endorsed the new sport of football and by that deed ensured that the University of Florida Fightin' Gator football team exists today;

Whereas the University of Florida is a founding member of the Southeastern Conference, considered by many to be the toughest conference in college football;